

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended): A system for allowing various document signing functions comprising:

a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems, each remotely located computer-based system comprising:

a user interface component for displaying an electronic document the user of the computer-based system desires to assign signing functions thereto, and for ~~designating~~ identifying one or more blocks of text for at least one signature ~~tasks~~ task;

a processing component for uniquely identifying the ~~designated~~ identified blocks of text; and

a browser component comprising:

an assigning component for assigning one or more other users to one or more of the uniquely identified blocks of text in a registered document; and

a ~~signing~~ component for allowing review of the ~~assigning~~ assigned blocks of text, that are assigned to the one or more other users ~~user~~, for one or more of the assigned blocks of text selecting an option from a list consisting of: at least one of an acceptance option and ~~or a decline option for each of the assigned blocks of text~~, and for executing a digital signature of the ~~blocks of text~~ document; and

a document computer-based system coupled to the remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the document system comprising:

a registering component for registering documents, the registering component comprising:



a first component for identifying designated blocks of text; and  
a second component for verifying the correctness of uniquely identified blocks of text;  
a storing component for storing information of the users ~~assigned to~~ associated with the assigned blocks of text of a registered document and digital signature certificates for preregistered users, digital signatures of ~~applied to~~ registered documents, and the users' selections of the acceptance or decline options; and  
a retrieval component for allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks and for allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

2. (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the assigning component further assigns a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

3. (Currently Amended): A method for allowing various document signing functions to be performed by users at a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems coupled to a document computer-based system over a data network, the method comprising:

displaying an electronic document at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems;

~~designating~~ identifying one or more blocks of text for at least one signature ~~tasks~~ task;  
uniquely identifying the ~~designated~~ identified blocks of text; ~~and~~

assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks of text in a registered document; ~~and~~

allowing review of the assigned ~~assigning~~ blocks of text, that are assigned to the one or more other users ~~user~~, for one or more of the assigned blocks of text selecting

an option from a list consisting of: at least one of an acceptance option or and a decline option for each of the assigned blocks of text, and for executing a digital signature of the blocks of text~~document~~; and

registering documents at the document computer-based system, the registering comprising:

identifying designated blocks of text; and

verifying the correctness of uniquely identified blocks of text; and

storing information of the users associated with the assigned ~~to the~~ blocks of text of a registered document and digital signature certificates for users preregistered with the document computer-based system;

storing digital signatures of documents;

storing the users' selections of the acceptance or decline options;

allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks; and

allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

4. (Original): The system of Claim 3, wherein the assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks text further comprises assigning a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

5. (Currently Amended): A system for allowing various document signing functions, the system being coupled to a document signing server over a data network, the system comprising:

a user interface component for displaying an electronic document the user of the computer-based system desires to assign signing functions thereto, and for ~~designating~~ identifying one or more blocks of text for at least one signature tasks task;

a processing component for uniquely identifying the ~~designated~~ identified blocks of text; and

a browser component comprising:

an assigning component for assigning one or more other users to one or more of the uniquely identified blocks of text in a registered document by the document signing server; and

a signing component for allowing review of the ~~assigning~~ assigned blocks of text, that are assigned to the one or more other users ~~user~~, for one or more of the assigned blocks of text selecting an option from a list consisting of: at least one of an acceptance option and ~~or~~ a decline option ~~for each of the assigned blocks of text~~, and for executing a digital signature of the ~~blocks of text~~ document.

6. (Original): The system of Claim 5, wherein the assigning component further assigns a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

7. (Currently Amended): A system for allowing various document signing functions, the system being coupled to a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the system comprising:

a registering component for registering documents sent from the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the registering component comprising:

a first component for identifying in one or more of the registered documents blocks of text designated for signing at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems ~~and encoded within the associated document~~; and

a second component for verifying the correctness of ~~uniquely~~ identified blocks of text;

a storing component for storing information of the users associated with the assigned ~~to the~~ blocks of text of a registered document and digital signature certificates for preregistered users, digital signatures of ~~applied to~~ registered documents, and ~~the~~ a user's selection ~~users' selections~~ from a list of options consisting of: of the an acceptance option and a ~~or decline option-options~~; and

a retrieval component for allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks and for allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.